

Hallam Bridge

ISSUE 38

April 2026

A Community called to love one another as Christ loves us.

Sent to Share Faith- A Franciscan perspective on Mission in the Year of St Francis



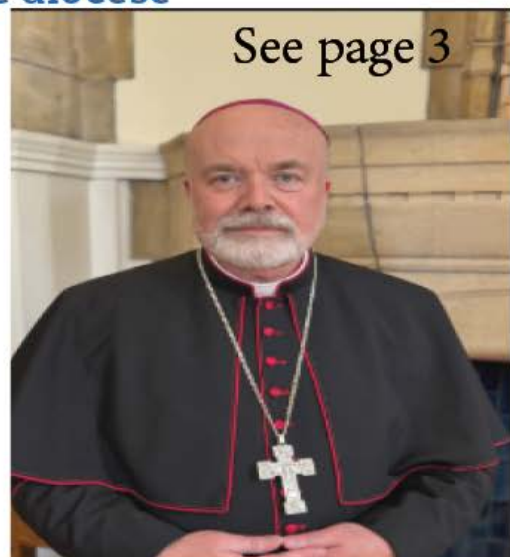
See page 4

Helen Simmerson retires as Headteacher of Emmaus School, Sheffield.

Bishop Marcus invites everyone in the diocese to respond to the Consultation about the future of the diocese



See page 4



See page 3

Upcoming Events

16 May, 20 June, 18 July Spiritual Reading Group at 10:00-12:00 at Pastoral Centre,
5 May Prayer for Survivors of Abuse, Holy Spirit, Dronfield
22 May Leeds, Middlesboro and Hallam Consultation deadline
9 & 15 May CCRS Pastoral Centre
26 June- 2 July Lourdes Pilgrimage
4 July Women Together in Hallam Pastoral Centre
12 July, Padley Pilgrimage
25 July Walsingham Pilgrimage

Welcome to the April edition of the Hallam Bridge

Consultation on the future of the diocese. (Page 3)

These are stirring times for this diocese and for the whole church. Perhaps the consultation about the future of the diocese can act as a reminder or an awakening, that Hallam is not an isolated entity, but a group of people connected by somewhat arbitrary (and changeable) geographical boundaries and part of a worldwide Church. If on the one hand being asked what you think about combining dioceses evokes in you a glazed expression and a what's-it-to-do-with-me shrug, perhaps there could be an opportunity to look deeper at the gift the Holy Spirit is offering in this moment. The reflection prayer, The Examen, (www.jesuit.org.uk/spirituality//examen) in the Ignatian tradition, encourages us to reflect moment to moment on our day, to become practiced at noticing when we are encountering God in our day. It might be in a gentle nudge, an outright shout, or a still soft voice from the Holy Spirit, in our encounters with others during the day. It may be that being consulted by Bishop Marcus, at the request of Pope Leo, to give your views on the future of the diocese, is a nudge towards something from the Holy Spirit. What might God be asking of you at this time? Your individual prayers can give you time to contemplate on this. And the collective gatherings to talk about, think about, pray about the issue in groups and parish gatherings will enrich your perspective as you hear from others about the fruits of their contemplations. Those of you who have had experience with Conversations in the Spirit since the opening of the synod will be helpful in guiding others through a process which endeavours to ensure each voice is heard, each contribution valued, each disagreement respected. If you would like support to facilitate your meetings, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Formation and Mission team, (who now have the benefit of working collaboratively with the Formation and Mission teams in two other dioceses).

More from the Worldwide Church

Our Care for Creation movement walked its way through Lent (Page 10) and links back to our perception of ourselves as part of a worldwide church. What we do in our rich consumer nation does have an impact on the poor of the world who we are called to tend. As Pope Leo completes his 11 day visit to Africa, it is worth reading or listening to his preaching as he visited, different countries,

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Diocese of Hallam



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CONTACT

introducing himself as a 'Pilgrim of Peace' and commending the power of the simple act of recognising ourselves as one family. Pope Leo's teachings can be found on www.vatican.va and an account of his trip on www.ucanews.com/ Leo in Africa: The Magisterium of Peace, Justice and Fraternity.

A story of 'compassion, ingenuity and the power of human connection' can also be read in the tale of Ken Dunn 's ministry in Lesotho on Page 6, with an invitation to hear from him in person on 13th May at Mother of God Church.

Elsewhere, and in this Year of St Francis, great hospitality was exercised by the people of St Francis parish, welcoming three Franciscan Friars visiting from USA (Page 4). More about the SEARCH (Seek, Encounter, Accompany, Renew, Convert, Heal) ministry in next months edition.

The Council of the Synod met in Rome to consider what steps are ongoing or planned for in this implementation phase of the synod of the worldwide church. The full report is on Page 9. And parishes might find it helpful to consider the Self-assessment booklet "How Synodal is your Parish" . Which can be accessed on the link on page 9. It would be interesting to have feedback from any parish or group who use this aide.

Comings and Goings

Good wishes and blessings go to Helen Simmerson, retiring Headteacher of Emmaus Catholic and Church of England Primary School, Sheffield, pictured with a group of children and a magnificent cake on page 4.

Invitations

Padley Pilgrimage is on the calendar for this year on 12 July and we are reminded of seven priests who have offered Mass at the Chapel over the years. (page 7), as the Chapel begins its regular summer opening hours (2-4 Sundays until 4 October). Other times for Pilgrimage visits may be possible by arrangement with friendsofpadley@hallam-diocese.com

Already we benefit from our new wider connections with other dioceses. Middlesborough Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission invite us to an on-line talk "Hope in Turbulent Times" by Leeds Justice and Peace Commission Chair, John Battle, contact Barbara Huggin bhungin@yahoo.co.uk (Page 12)

The new Women Together in Hallam group invite you to an inaugural meeting (Page 12) as well as inviting women to respond to the questions from the National Board of Catholic Women for their annual statement to the Bishop's Conference. (Page 10).

An invitation to join the National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse is on Page 12.

And an invitation for men to consider whether they may have a call to the ministry of Deacon is on page 6.

As always, your contributions, letters, reports and articles are welcomed. At this time, we would particularly welcome your thoughts on the proposed changes for the future of the diocese. No submissions will be considered without full name and address and are subject to editorial amendment.

Editor

Appointments

Bishop Stock has appointed Father Dominic Jenkinson as Assistant Priest to the Parishes of St Teresa, Darton, Blessed Sacrament, Athersley & St Mary Magdalene, Cudworth.

Mrs Sheila Parden has retired as bishop's secretary. She has worked for all three bishops of Hallam, first in the Tribunal and then as secretary. We give thanks for many years of devoted service and wish her well in her retirement.

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Leeds, Middlesbrough & Hallam Consultation 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you will be aware, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed me Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Middlesbrough and of the Diocese of Hallam, in addition to my ministry as the Bishop of Leeds.

In entrusting me with this responsibility, the Holy Father has also invited the faithful of the dioceses of Middlesbrough, Hallam and Leeds to undertake an important task: to explore the possibility of how our three dioceses can work together in close collaboration with a view to a possible future union as one diocesan family, so that we may be better placed to carry forward the mission of the Church in our region.

As well as the consultation meetings taking place across our dioceses, there is also an opportunity for all of the clergy, religious and lay faithful in all three dioceses to contribute to this consultation, either individually or as a parish group, by completing the online questionnaire.

I encourage the faithful within our dioceses to devote time and prayerful reflection upon these questions before offering a response, so that the Holy Spirit may guide us through this important process of consultation and discernment.

To assist in this, prayer resources and a presentation have been made available below to help ensure that this period of reflection is fruitful.

I kindly ask that responses be submitted through the online questionnaire no later than Friday, 22nd May 2026.

The link to the questionnaire can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/fDJRiRxj25>

The Consultation Presentation, Format for Prayers, and Consultation Participants Notes can be accessed on the diocesan website: <https://hallam-diocese.com/leeds-middlesborough-hallam-consultation-2026/>

Thank you for the time and prayer you can offer to this important task, which has been entrusted to us by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV.

With every blessing and the assurance of my prayers, I remain,

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

+ Marcus

Bishop of Leeds
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Middlesbrough
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Hallam



Bishop Marcus has invited clergy and two lay representatives from each parish to attend one of two Consultation Meetings which will be held in the Diocese: one will take place in Doncaster for parishes in the east of the diocese; and the other in Sheffield, for parishes in the west of the diocese.

Walking on the Road to Emmaus



Pupils and staff at Emmaus Catholic and Church of England Primary School, Sheffield, gathered to give thanks for the work Helen Simmerson on her retirement as their headteacher after twenty years of service to the school. She was the first Deputy headteacher when the school opened in September 2006 and went on to become the headteacher in September 2012. Before coming to Emmaus she taught at St Mary's High Green, St Thomas of Canterbury, and Hucklow School. She began her teaching career at St Winefride's Catholic Junior School in Bootle Merseyside.

In the story in Luke's Gospel, two disciples are walking the road to Emmaus on Easter Sunday, sad at Jesus's crucifixion. The risen Jesus joins them and talks to them about Scripture, but they do not recognise him. They have a meal together and recognise Jesus when they break bread together. During Helen's twenty years at our school, she has followed the example of Jesus walking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. She has done all that she can to share knowledge and understanding for all the children in our care, walking with them, and sharing her faith and fostering their faith of staff and pupils. We are incredibly thankful to her for all that she has done to help us all to walk with Jesus. We all wish her the very best on the start of this new chapter in her life.

At the celebration Helen said 'It has been an absolute privilege to be the headteacher of Emmaus, it is a lovely school to work in, the children have always been a complete joy to behold, the parents supportive and a welcoming staff. As I retire, I am looking forward to spending time in my garden and catching up with family and friends.'

Simon Collis

Sent to Share Faith- A Franciscan perspective on Mission in the Year of St Francis



On 17 April we were privileged to welcome three Franciscan Friars, Fathers Casey Cole, Tito Serrano and Jason Damon to the diocese. Fr Casey was well known for his Breaking in the Habit blog and social media presence.

Thanks to David Bellamy and a group of parishioners from St Francis' Parish in Sheffield they had a very busy schedule visiting Padley Chapel in the morning then the brothers concelebrated the Mass at the cathedral with Fr Jason preaching. Afterwards, they ate lunch with some young adults and Fr Casey gave a 20 minute talk on evangelization, followed by a lengthy Q&A. People from across the diocese were joined by young people from Buxton in the diocese of Nottingham and Droylsden in the diocese of Salford.

Later that evening they celebrated another Mass, this time at St. Francis, followed by a potluck dinner and one-night mission of talks. Fathers Casey, Tito and Jason all spoke about different aspects of evangelisation giving insights in how to do it and some observations about how not to do it.

The Three Friars have recently founded SEARCH (Seek, Encounter, Accompany, Renew, Convert, Heal) This is a bold new Franciscan ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte USA bringing the Gospel beyond church walls—meeting people on the streets, in coffee shops, and wherever real life happens.

Their mission is to reach young adults, spiritual seekers, and those disconnected from the

Church through authentic presence, conversation, and compassion. Rooted in the spirit of St. Francis, SEARCH is about walking with others, sharing Christ's love, and inviting hearts to renewal and healing.

Their talks provided lots of inspiration as we consider our focus on Mission and the future of the diocese.

Kevan Grady

Strengthening the Diaconate: The Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership



The Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership (NDFP) is a partnership of eight dioceses in the North of England and Wales who have come together to provide theological study, spiritual and pastoral development for students for the permanent diaconate. A four-year programme of theological study sits alongside practical pastoral formation provided in regional groupings, and parish-based pastoral and liturgical experiences, which together prepare men for ordination to the permanent diaconate.

Regional Collaboration in Action: Hallam already works in close cooperation with both the dioceses of Leeds and Middlesbrough. The dioceses of Leeds and Hallam share the same annual selection conference to consider those who aspire to ministry as deacons. The dioceses of Leeds, Hallam, and Middlesbrough cooperate together to provide a programme of pastoral and spiritual formation for our students. Since July 2025, I have served as the elected Chair of the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership (NDFP), a charity, which oversees the programme of formation for dioceses of the Northern Province and Wrexham. The

photograph shows the students and tutors gathered together at Hinsley Hall in Leeds for a formation weekend.

Celebrating Our Upcoming Ordinations: We are fortunate to have two candidates in the fourth year who are now preparing for ordination, as follows: Saturday 17th October - Ordination to the Diaconate of Danny Murphy (Diocese of Leeds), Leeds Cathedral, 11:00am Saturday 7th November - Ordination to the Diaconate of Peter Holland (Diocese of Hallam), St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield, 11:00am Please pray for our ordinands as they prepare for their pre-ordination retreat at St. Beuno's coming up in May.

Discerning a Vocation: Requirements for Candidates Candidates for the permanent diaconate must be baptised, confirmed Catholic men who feel a call from God to serve the Church, and are able to commit to a part-time programme of four years spiritual, human, and intellectual formation. While an extensive formal education is not required, applicants must have sufficient capacity to cope with the theological formation. More importantly, they must have a history of active service for several years in the diocese they wish to serve, showing a heart for service, and be living in accordance with Church teachings. An applicant must be at least 35 years old at the time of ordination and under 55 years old when applying, so ordination can be before the age of 60. They must be in good health, to handle the demands of training and ministry. Married men must be in a valid Catholic marriage for at least 5 years and they must have the full consent of their wife to apply. Unmarried men must be willing to make a promise of celibacy. Permanent deacons are expected to support themselves and their families through their own employment, and are not paid by the Church. We presently have three students in formation for the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Hallam, and across the Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership we presently have twenty-seven students in formation.

Looking forwards with Hope Pope Leo described the ministry of the deacon as a "living sign of a love that does not remain on the surface, but bends down, listens, and gives itself". He emphasizes that deacons should be "animators of the Church's diakonia" (service). The Northern Diaconal Formation Partnership (NDFP) is perhaps one of the many signs of hope and renewal for the Church in the north of England. We see God calling servants to His Church, and the diaconate continues to grow as a dedicated ministry of service, liturgy, and charity. We invite you to keep all our students in your prayers—especially Danny and Peter as they approach their ordination — and to pray that the Holy Spirit continues to stir the hearts of men called to this life-changing vocation. Whether through prayer or active discernment, your support ensures that our parishes remain vibrant communities served by deacons who truly embody the servant heart of Christ. If you think that the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to respond to God's call to consider a vocation to the permanent diaconate, speak to your parish priest or deacon and then why not email to find out more. Contact: Rev Deacon Tony Strike at email: astrike@hallam-diocese.com.

Tony Strike

How the People of Lesotho Inspired a Life-Saving Invention



More than 20 years ago, a former Rotherham teacher, Ken Dunn, set out on a journey that would quietly change countless lives. After winning a photography competition, Ken travelled to southern Africa—and it was there, through a simple, chance encounter, that something remarkable began. Deeply moved by

the people he met, Ken went on to found *Africa's Gift*

, along with its sister social enterprise, *Eternal Flame*

. What started in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho has since grown into a far-reaching project, working with communities across Africa and supported by partners including both of Sheffield's universities. Ken was later awarded an MBE for his work—though he's not one to make a fuss about it. What matters most is the difference being made: practical, life-saving innovations that are improving health and bringing hope to millions. If you'd like to hear this story for yourself, you're warmly invited to join us for an evening with Ken at Mother of God Parish on Abbeydale Road, Sheffield. Wednesday 13th May, 7:00pm – Church Hall There'll be light refreshments, along with a lovely selection of crafts and cards to browse. Most of all, it's a chance to come along, listen, and be inspired by a story of compassion, ingenuity, and the power of human connection.

Everyone is very welcome—we'd love to see you there.

Rita McManus

An Easter 2026 celebration of 7 'Anchors of faith', linked to Padley Chapel Shrine.



Seven priests who ensured that Holy Mass was preserved and celebrated in England.

Blessed Richard Simpson of Wheston Hall, Tideswell (16th century), martyred with Bls Garlick and Ludlam, July 24th 1588 St Mary's

Chapel Bridge Derby

Bishop Robert Pursglove of Tideswell, (16th century) from a Henrician Bishop to a Catholic recusant. A mentor to Bls Garlick and Buxton.

Fr William Fieldsend (16th century) of Tideswell, St John the Baptist, likely exiled to continental Europe with Bl Garlick.

Fr George Jinks (19th century) Hathersage, 'St Michael the Archangel' built the 'Immaculate Heart of Mary' chapel in Tideswell c 1830, when Wheston Hall was no longer available as a 'Mass House'.

Canon Oswald Dolan of St Marie's Sheffield, born in Leeds, worked with High Peak Catholics and the 'Guild of Our Lady of Ransom', to establish the first 'official' pilgrimage to Padley Chapel Shrine 1898.

Canon Joseph Busch (20th century) Hathersage, 'St Michael the Archangel' who with Mgr Charles Payne restored Padley Chapel Shrine to the Catholic faith.

Bishop Ralph Heskett Diocese of Hallam (emeritus) (21st century) celebrated Mass with Bishop Patrick McKinney, Diocese of Nottingham, at the 'Inter-Diocesan' Padley Pilgrimages.

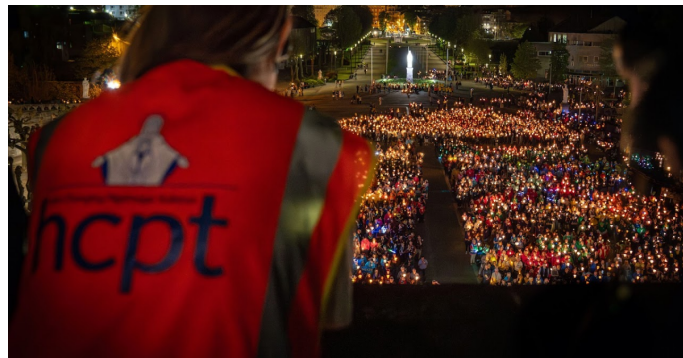
Bishop Marcus Stock, will continue to lead us, in this proud historic regional tradition, of our Catholic faith heritage.

Padley Chapel Shrine is open Sundays until 4th October 2026 (2.00 – 4.00 pm).

If you would like to explore the possibility of a Pilgrimage visit on another day, or join our team of Welcomers, or would like a copy of 'A pilgrim's guide to Padley' by Fr Sweeney (available for sale on Sundays), please contact friendsofpadley@hallam-diocese.com.

Gerard Bonner

HCPT Celebrates 70 Years of Everyday Miracles at Landmark Trust Mass in Lourdes



More than 3,000 pilgrims have gathered in Lourdes this Easter as HCPT marks 70 years of its life-changing pilgrimage.

Founded in 1956 by Brother Michael Strode, HCPT began with a simple but transformative vision, which young people should be able to travel to Lourdes with dignity, joy and a true sense of belonging. Today, that vision continues to shape the charity's work, as 3,399 pilgrims gather this Easter under the theme "Together in Love."

As part of the anniversary celebrations, pilgrims gathered on Tuesday evening for a special fireworks display following the Torchlight Procession. Set against the backdrop of Lourdes, the display marked the 70th anniversary in a moment as pilgrims from across the world gathered together in answer Our Lady's message.

HCPT marked its 70th anniversary in Lourdes with a joyful Trust Mass, bringing together almost 3,500 pilgrims from across the UK and around the world as part of this year's Easter pilgrimage.

The Mass marked the celebration on what HCPT is, in this anniversary year, reflecting on seven decades of service, belonging and life-changing experiences rooted in the message of Lourdes.

Archbishop Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh and President of HCPT, invited pilgrims to reflect on both the origins of HCPT and the deeper meaning of Lourdes itself.

"We have a lot to be grateful for," the homily reflected, recalling the founding vision of Brother Michael Strode, whose initiative began something that "we've kept going since."

The connection between past and present was especially poignant this year, as pilgrims celebrated not only the milestone anniversary but also the enduring spirit of those who first carried the pilgrimage forward.

In light of the Gospel of the Wedding at Cana, the homily highlighted the theme of God's generosity, a message that resonates deeply with the HCPT experience in Lourdes.

"There is a generosity of spirit... not just an abundance, but a super abundance of grace and goodness and love," pilgrims heard as a reminder of the quiet but powerful ways in which lives are touched during the pilgrimage.

Throughout the week in Lourdes, pilgrims take part in a rich programme including Mass, torchlight processions, visits to the Grotto, as well as excursions to the mountains. Alongside these moments, it is often the simple, personal encounters that leave the deepest impression.

These are what many from HCPT would describe as "Everyday Miracles", the small but significant moments that continue to define the pilgrimage, 70 years on.

This year's anniversary also carries a strong sense of legacy. In a moving link to the beginnings of HCPT, Brother Michael Strode's brother, Peter Strode, was among those who travelled with HCPT, sharing in the celebrations and witnessing the continued impact of his brother's vision.

Chief Executive of HCPT, Tricia Macfarlane, said, "I feel truly blessed to lead the incredibly special mission of HCPT, even more so as we reach this important milestone of 70 years. I am in awe of our volunteers across the UK and around the world; I see them day in, day out, being the hands and feet of Jesus in delivering HCPT's mission. Like most charities, times have been tough for us, but we know the Holy Spirit,

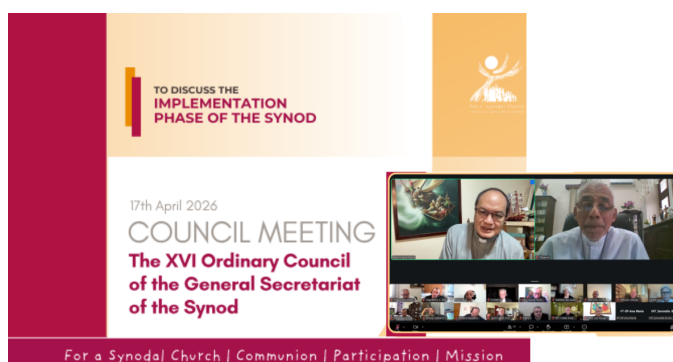
Our Blessed Lady and St Bernadette will help each of us use our gifts and use this special year as a springboard to safeguard HCPT's mission for many years to come.

We have created a new suite of volunteering opportunities to extend and grow our mission, throwing open the doors of HCPT so that we can extend the joy and hope of our mission to new parishes and communities. We welcome anyone who'd like to become involved to get in touch."

As HCPT celebrates this milestone year, the Trust Mass stands as a moment of thanksgiving, not only for the past 70 years, but also for the countless lives impacted through pilgrimage, and for the generations still to come.

Elaine Furmage

Synod- Implementation Phase Updates



The General Secretariat of the Synod convened, on the afternoon of Friday, 17 April, the XVI Ordinary Council, held online.

Following a moment of prayer led by Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ, Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod, the Secretary General, cardinal Mario Grech, opened the session with several communications concerning the current phase of implementation of the

Final Document

of the XVI Assembly, the work of the Study Groups whose final reports are in the process of being published, and the forthcoming organization of two meetings.

First, the convocation, from 23 to 25 June 2026, of a *meeting to prepare the*

continental evaluation Assemblies

scheduled for the first four months of 2028. Those invited include: one representative of the Patriarchs of the Council of the Patriarchs of the Eastern Churches, the Presidents of the International Meetings of Episcopal Conferences, as well as the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences of USA and Canada, each accompanied by the Coordinator of the Synodal Team of the respective body and, if possible, by the Secretary General. The Holy Father Leo XIV will take part in a specific working session.

Secondly, the meeting, to be held in the Vatican from 7 to 14 October 2026, of the Presidents of Episcopal Conferences from around the world on the theme of the family in the light of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation

Amoris laetitia

. The meeting had been announced by the Holy Father himself in his Message on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of

Amoris laetitia

(19 March 2026). With this meeting, Pope Leo XIV intends “to proceed, in mutual listening, to a synodal discernment on the steps to be taken in order to proclaim the Gospel to families today [...] and taking into account what is currently being done in the local Churches”. The Holy Father has entrusted the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life with the preparation of the meeting, asking the General Secretariat of the Synod to offer organizational and methodological support. For the sake of clarity, it is specified that this is not a synodal assembly, but a consultative meeting of the Holy Father with the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences and of the Synods of the Eastern Catholic Churches

sui iuris

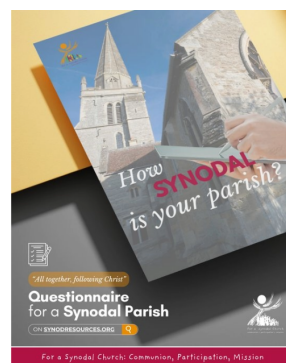
Following these communications, Fr. Giacomo Costa, S.J., Consultor of the General Secretariat and Special Secretary of the XVI Assembly, presented a proposal for a document for the implementation phase of the Synod, particularly

concerning the organization of the evaluation assemblies. The Council discussed the document at length and approved its general structure. The final version of the document, intended as a complement to the *Pathways for the Implementation Phase* published in June 2025, will be revised by the Ordinary Council and published by the beginning of summer.

Finally, the members of the Ordinary Council asked Cardinal Mario Grech to convey to H.E. Msgr. Luis Marín de San Martín their gratitude for his years of service at the General Secretariat of the Synod, assuring him of their prayers for his new ministry as Almoner of His Holiness and Prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, to which the Holy Father has appointed him.

General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops

Is your parish synodal?



A new self-assessment questionnaire, developed by a diverse group of Catholics led by social entrepreneur and author Philippe de Roux, invites parishes to reflect, discern, and grow together in the spirit of the Synod.

Download the questionnaire from the synod website <https://www.synodresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Questionnaire-for-a-Synodal-Parish.pdf>

Have Your Say: Contribute to NBCW's Annual Statement to the Bishops' Conference



NBCW

National Board of Catholic Women

NBCW are preparing their annual statement to the Bishops Conference. Catholic women in each diocese are asked to consider the questions below and feedback responses by 29th May. **THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO HAVE OUR VOICES HEARD!!**

Comments can be from individuals or women's groups. In the form of quotes, notes or key themes.

Topic 1 Synodality

As the Church enters the implementation phase of the Synod how are women experiencing the synodal process?

What role do women see for themselves in fostering a synodal way of being Church?

Topic 2 Inclusion and Cultural Identity

How can parishes become safe and welcoming spaces where women from different cultures feel able to speak, share their experiences and be fully themselves in the life of the Church?

The survey can be completed using the completed using this QR code **Judith Green**



Care for Creation - April 2026



Walking our Way through Lent

From Ash Wednesday six weeks can seem a long time, with Easter Sunday a vanishingly distant dawn on the horizon. Especially if you plan to forgo an addictive prop for the duration, like smoking, or sugar, or scrolling your phone. Taking part in Cafod's annual Big Lent Walk, on the other hand, can feel more like stepping out purposefully on a pilgrimage, a steady progress through the lengthening days as the light gradually increases and the earth awakens. And when at times the walk feels more like a trudge, you have good reason to carry on. This year's good reason was to raise money for those in the world who have no choice but to walk many kilometers to find water for their daily use. As a Lent walker, you cover an average of 5km a day for 40 days, you ask friends to sponsor you, and Cafod uses the money to support communities to build clean, safe water access.

This is the fourth year that our parish has taken on the Cafod Big Lent Walk. A group of us pool our walking distances, and combine the donations our fellow parishioners generously provide. It fits well with the Live Simply ethos: Living Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with those in need. Walking itself is a simple, sustainable method of getting from A to B. It is quiet, companionable, takes up little space, only burns our personal energy. It allows for reflection and prayer. And the Lent Walk is a fine example of solidarity, both within our parish - walkers and sponsors making common cause and without, sharing our lives with those who do not yet have a tap to turn on when they need a drink. St. Vincent's Parish walked over 2500km covered and raised £1282 for CAFOD

Columba Timmins

Parenting Teenagers?



Celebrate Trust is excited to announce two new webinars for parents and carers of teenagers. We are aware that bringing up young people in today's world can be both a joyful and challenging experience, so we have booked some experts to share their wisdom with you, help you gain confidence and provide you with some practical ideas to support you at home.

Confident parenting in a world of screens 29 April 8pm
Raising teenagers in a Catholic family 2 June 8pm

Find out more: Confident parenting in a world of screens. Hardly a day goes by without headlines highlighting the impact of smartphones and social media on our teenagers. They face a whole new level of complexity as they grow up in a digital world, but as parents and carers there are so many things, we can do to help them navigate it well. This webinar with Kate Duroux from Care for the Family, a national UK charity, will help us consider how we can best support our teenagers through the challenges of the digital world, and offer practical advice and principles to apply in our own unique families.

Raising teenagers in a Catholic family: The beginning of adolescence is in many ways a "rebirth" of the child, and when this "rebirth" happens, many parents feel as if they are learning how to be a parent all over again! This is the great journey from childhood to adulthood and it is not always an easy road for parent or child. But God always gives the grace parents need, and Mike and Alicia from the Messy Family Project, a Catholic family ministry from the US, remind parents of this

fact. They also give empathy and guidance on how to successfully navigate the tween and teen years by modelling for children the behaviour they wish to see in them and investing in the relationship on a deeper level. To reserve your place, book now by visiting <https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting>

Kinga Kusterska

National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse



The National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse takes place every year on the fifth Tuesday of Easter. In 2026, the day is marked on Tuesday, 5 May.

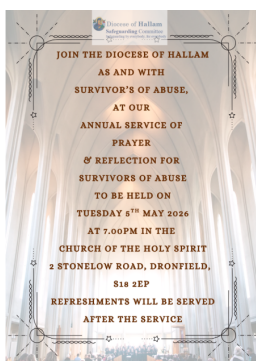
The theme for this year's Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse looks at the scourge of domestic abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring.

Below is the link to the CBCEW website for resources which has been prepared with the help of the Spirituality Committee.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/national-day-of-prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2026/>

Kinga Kusterska

Day of Prayer For Survivors of Abuse Annual Service



Join the Diocese of Hallam, together with survivors of abuse, for our annual Service of Prayer and Reflection. This will take place on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7:00pm at The Church of the Holy Spirit, 2 Stonelow Road, Dronfield, S18 2EP. Refreshments will be served afterwards. **Marie O'Donnelly**

Hope in Turbulent Times – an online talk



13 May 2026 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

The Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture is organised every year by the Middlesbrough Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission. This year the lecture will be online and the speaker is John Battle, the Chair of the Leeds Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission. Middlesbrough Diocese have extended an invitation to all three dioceses. If you would like to receive the zoom link for this lecture then please email Barbara Huggin bhungin@yahoo.co.uk **Columba Timmins**

Women Together in Hallam



The First meeting of Women Together in Hallam, at The Hallam Pastoral Centre Sheffield, on the 4th of July 2026 between 10 am and 12pm. Women Together at Hallam. Further details can be obtained by emailing jgreen@hallam-diocese.com **Judith Green**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Relic is visiting the Mother of God Church



A relic of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be at the Mother of God Church, Sheffield on 6 June. The day begins at 10 am with Holy Mass. This Relic has been declared as an Authorised Relic that extends the graces of evangelisation, conversion and truth to those who receive it. Following Holy Mass and veneration of Our Lady of Guadalupe Relic, there will be a Rethink Abortion Day led by the March for Life team in the Parish Centre. The team will lead a series of engaging, inspiring and informative sessions aimed at motivating and equipping us to articulate our pro life beliefs. The booking fee for this event is being subsidised by the group. Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Book for the Rethink Abortion event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rethink-abortion-interactive-training-day-tickets-1983353309138> Rethink Abortion Interactive Training Day Tickets, Saturday, Jun 6 from 10 am to 4 pm **Rachel Wood**

Scam Alert



The Safeguarding Team are often contacted regarding scam emails that have been received to parish email addresses. The emails usually request money/donations or help to purchase 'gift cards' and often contain generic greetings, spelling errors and suspicious links.

As email addresses are displayed on parish websites that are publicly available to access via the internet or social media platforms, scammers can easily identify ways to target an individual or organisation. However, the following points will help to minimise potential risk:

Never click on links or download attachments from unknown senders or untrusted site

Verify the sender's details which are often different to the name displayed, for e.g. the email sender may indicate a person has sent it but if you hover over the sender's email this is often a company.

Urgent Tone - Scammers create a false sense of urgency (e.g., "account suspended," "invoice overdue") to force quick, irrational action.

Unusual Requests - Legitimate companies will not ask for sensitive information like passwords, bank/credit card numbers, or PINs via email.

Actions to take:

If you become a victim of financial or online fraud please report it to the Action Fraud team on 0300 123 2040

If you believe your email account has been hacked or compromised

Change your Password - Change your email password immediately to a strong, unique password. If you cannot log in, use the 'Forgot Password' feature to initiate recovery.

Sign out of all sessions and on all devices - Use the account security settings to sign out of all devices and active sessions to kick the hacker out.

Enable 2-Step Verification (2FA/MFA) - Set up 2FA to require a code from your phone to sign in, which prevents future unauthorized access.


Run Virus Scan - Use reliable antivirus software to scan your computer/phone for malware, as hackers may have installed tools to steal your new password.

Notify Contacts - Let friends, family, and colleagues know your account was compromised so they don't click on malicious links or send money.

Change Linked Accounts - If you used the same password elsewhere (like banking or social media), change those immediately.

Jo Pearson





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